

### **REMARKS**

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 2, 8, 11, 22, 24 and 39 to specify different embodiments of the present invention and overcome the rejection. In addition, Claims 3 – 7, 9, 21, 23, 25 – 26, 28 – 29, 31 – 32, 34 – 35, 37 – 38, 40 and 46 – 51 have been amended to provide proper dependent form and correct certain informalities. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by the amended claims. All claims are now present for examination and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following comments.

### **SPECIFICATION:**

The specification has been objected as containing informalities.

It is respectfully submitted that the currently presented amendments have corrected the informalities. More specifically, the references listings including author and year are clear to a person of ordinary skill in that art. Any reference should be submitted in information disclosure statement has been properly submitted. For all other informalities, Applicant has made the changes according to the Examiner's suggestions.

Therefore, the objection has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

### **SEQUENCE REQUIREMENT:**

The sequences appeared on page 43, lines 11 – 12 have been objected as containing informalities.

It is respectfully submitted that the currently presented amendments have corrected the informalities. More specifically, sequence listing numbers have been added to identify these sequences.

Therefore, the objection has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112 SECOND PARAGRAPH:

Claims 1 – 51 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is respectfully submitted that the currently presented amendments clearly point out and define the embodiment of the present invention. More specifically, Claims 1, 2, 8, 11, 22, 24 and 39 have been amended to replace the term “functionally equivalent variant” with more specified definition – the equivalent peptide/protein is immunologically cross-reactive with and has at least substantially the same function as the original protein/peptide. The support for the amendment can be found throughout the specification, for example, in paragraph [0107] of the published specification of the application or page 22, line 11 through page 23, line 10 of the specification as filed. It is respectfully submitted that the amended definition is clear to a person of ordinary skill in the relevant art. All other dependent claims include this feature by their dependency on amended Claims 1, 2, 8, 11, 22, 24 and 39.

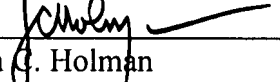
Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, has been overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Having overcome all outstanding grounds of rejection, the application is now in condition for allowance, and prompt action toward that end is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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